

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
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R 291825Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135
USDA/FAS WASHDC

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FAS FOR TURNER OYLOE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GW
SUBJECT: TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF SWEET SORGHUM SEED

REF: OYLOE'S LETTER TO ANDERSON, FEB. 24

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH THE GERMAN
SEED TRADE. THEY REPORT THAT UPON REQUEST OF
FREUDENBERGER AND OTHER IMPORTERS, TWO GERMAN SEED
TRADE ASSOCIATIONS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINAG
BONN CONCERNING THE TARIFF CLASSIFICATION FOR SWEET
SORGHUM SEED. MINAG REPLIED THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT THE
POSITION TAKEN BY THE TRADE BUT WOULD ONLY DO SO IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE ASSOCIATIONS BASICALLY UNDERSTAND THE CUSTOMS'
REASONING REGARDING CLASSIFICATION. THE SEED
ASSOCIATIONS DO NOT REGARD THE CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION
AND IMPORT LEVY AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE EC TARIFF
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SCHEDULE, AND THUS FEEL THAT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO
BE TAKEN UP IN THE GATT. INCLUSION IN THE POSITION
"SEED OF OTHER FORAGE PLANTS" CODE NO. 1203 59900 AT
FIVE PERCENT AD VALOREM DUTY WOULD BE ONE POSSIBILITY.
IT IS OUR IMPRESSION FROM TALKING TO THE TRADE THAT
WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO PAY FOR IT IN OUR OFFERS/
REQUESTS. IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS SIMILAR TO THE

BLUEBERRY/CRANBERRY CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM.

3. THE GERMAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATIONS STATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD SWEET SORGHUM SEED IS INCLUDED IN THE U.S. GATT REQUEST LIST, AS WELL AS FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. A LOT WILL DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER EC MEMBERS. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SPEAK WITH THE COMPETENT MINAG OFFICIALS ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THEY ARE ON EASTER VACATION. WE HOPE TO CONTACT THEM ON MARCH 31 OR APRIL 3 AND WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THIS PROBLEM.

STOESSEL

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To: STATE USDA

Type: TE

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